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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

FL. 253

HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD
HELENA, MONTANA

JUNE, 1964

Seasonal Job Upswing Adds 8,900 Workers

Seasonal job expansion which began in March made jobs for 8,900 more non-farm workers through May of this year. Jobs in industry and commerce advanced by 3,600 from April to May to an estimated total of 173,400. The employment increase between these months could have approached the 5,000 mark had it not been for bad weather throughout much of May. The average employment gain between April and May during the past five years was 5,100 workers. Despite the waterlogged labor market this year, May employment was still second highest of record for that month. The May non-farm employment record was set in 1963 with a total of 176,000 wage earners.

Month-to-Month Gains Recorded—Employment gains were exhibited in all but two of the state's eight basic industry groups from April to May this year. Despite unsteady work schedules caused by wet weather in many sections of the state, construction contractors added 800 workers to their payrolls during May. Most, or 600, went to work on building construction, while highway projects, dams, etc. employed 200 more.

Employment in trade industries was also up 800 during May as seasonal expansion continued in main street establishments, national parks, and resort areas. An upswing of 600 in the service industries was tied mainly to

increased hiring at hotels and motels. Lumbering accounted for 500 of a 600 gain in the manufacturing group with fabricated metal and stone and clay firms adding the other 100.

Seasonal expansion in forest service, national parks, and irrigation facilities put 400 more workers on federal government payrolls during May. There was no employment change at state and local levels of government. Employment in the transportation, utilities, and communications group was up by 400 as railroad work increased by 300 and utility and communication firms hired 100. Mining employment, at 7,300, and finance, insurance and real estate firms, with 6,800 employees, showed no change from April payrolls.

Mixed Trends From May, 63—Employment comparisons with May of last year, especially in construction and manufacturing, must take certain factors into consideration. Several major construction projects, including Butte's copper concentrator plant which had peak employment of 1,400 in May 1963, have been completed. Minuteman missile assembly work temporarily inflated employment in manufacturing. It naturally follows that construction payrolls are 1,600 lighter this May than last, while manufacturing employment shows a decline of 1,500 from May of 1963. Employment in Cascade County, where much of the missile work was

centered, is down 2,000 from May 1963.

Government payrolls showed mixed trends as an increase of 1,300 at state and local levels of government offset a decline of 700 in federal employment resulting in a net gain of 600 for the group as a whole. The mining industry group recorded a gain of 800 in metal mining but a drop of 600 in petroleum and natural gas production left a gain of 20 for this industry. May 1964 payrolls of trade establishments were shy 300 from May 1963. Employment in four other major industry groups remained the same this May as last.

Students Swell Labor Supply—The total number of registered jobseekers at the state's 22 local employment offices was nearly 11,000 on June 1. Included were hundreds of high school and college students hoping for summer employment. Some have already been employed at smelters in Anaconda and Great Falls, in construction and agriculture, and at trade and service establishments. Others may not fare as well for the number of applicants will continue to exceed the number of available summer jobs. The high school drop out and those with low scholastic records will find it tough going. Some hope may come to these young people floundering in today's labor markets without jobs and without expectations through youth opportunity programs of the state employment service.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	Apr. 1964	Mar. 1964	Apr. 1963	Apr. 1964	Mar. 1964	Apr. 1963	Apr. 1964	Mar. 1964	Apr. 1963	Apr. 1964	Mar. 1964	Apr. 1963	Apr. 1964	Mar. 1964	Apr. 1963
All Manufacturing	6.0	4.0	5.6	3.9	2.8	4.5	4.9	3.4	5.0	2.0	1.7	2.0	2.3	.5	2.0
Durable Goods	7.7	5.3	6.2	4.8	3.4	5.0	6.7	4.2	5.7	2.3	2.2	2.2	3.4	.4	2.2
Primary Metal	12.8	6.9	3.1	3.3	2.9	.7	11.7	5.1	3.3	1.8	1.7	.7	8.4	*	.4
Nondurable Goods	2.8	1.6	4.4	2.2	1.5	3.4	1.7	2.0	3.4	1.5	.8	1.5	.1	.7	1.5
All Mining	10.4	7.3	9.9	5.2	4.2	7.2	7.1	5.6	7.6	2.7	2.8	4.3	2.4	.6	1.4
Metal Mining	8.8	6.9	6.8	2.7	3.5	2.4	5.9	5.7	6.0	1.8	3.0	3.4	2.6	*	.3

Increase lay off rates (April, 1964) for Primary Metal Industries and Metal Mining due to secondary effects of labor dispute. The call back of these non-strikers is reflected in the increased Accession rates for these industries. * Less than .05.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary May 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(263 jobseekers, 66 new, 184 men, 84 women). Employment directions appear brighter after settlement of several labor disputes the past two months. Normal seasonal trends now prevail in most industries with best advances in smelter and construction employment. 50 high school and college students added to smelter payrolls for summer work.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(2,607 jobseekers, 832 new, 1,762 men, 845 women). Labor market trends showed fairly good upturn in most major industries during May with few exceptions. Construction remained the dominant hiring force as work expanded at Yellowtail Dam, 14 area highway projects and commercial, industrial, and residential units. Hiring by trade establishments failed to keep pace but fairly stable employment was maintained. Overall employment in oil field activity remained balanced with layoffs in some areas offset by more hiring in others. Farm outlook presents a good picture due to early moisture.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(221 jobseekers, 301 new, 126 men, 95 women). Employment trends in both farm and industry show improvement over last month and last year. Jobseeker files dropped by 50% from April as hiring increased in nearly every industry group. Construction, trade and service industries set the pace. Logging and sawmill employment on upswing as spring break-up period ends. Current shortage of farm workers expected to continue.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(995 jobseekers, 266 new, 664 men, 331 women). Employment trends in metal mining continue to increase after several short labor disputes the past two months. Some unrest still noted in local economy as a result of labor troubles. Hiring in trade and service industries especially dull. Payrolls of building and road construction contracts expanded as weather improved.

CUT BANK—(374 jobseekers, 27 new, 280 men, 94 women). Job hires on par with last year despite continuing labor dispute between employers and hotel and restaurant workers. Most May hiring occurred in the construction field. Heavy in-migration of transient labor noted.

DILLON—(49 jobseekers, 45 new, 34 men, 15 women). Good upswing in labor demand during May in both industry and farm. Variety of construction work including highways, dams, and

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE (In Thousands)

	May 64	Apr. 64	May 63	Apr. 64 to May 64	May 63 to May 64
Civilian Work Force	256.6	252.0	252.1	4.6	4.5
Total Employment	243.8	238.9	241.9	4.9	1.9
Total Non-agricultural Employment (Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	203.8	198.5	202.8	5.3	1.0
Total Agricultural Employment	173.4	169.8	176.0	3.6	-2.6
Labor Management Disputes	40.0	40.4	39.1	-0.4	.9
Total Unemployment	.2	.2	0	0	.2
Percent Unemployed	12.6	12.9	10.2	-3	2.4
U. S. Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.1	4.1		
	NA	5.3	5.6		

educational, commercial and home building projects making good progress. Wet weather caused some livestock losses during May. Farm labor demand continues at good clip.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(192 jobseekers, 101 new, 117 men, 75 women). About 125 employed on air base projects including housing and runway repair. Work progresses on new armory with 10 employed. Construction of \$300,000 meat packing plant slated for early start. Transfer of 1,400 air base personnel to Spokane until September caused some main street layoffs.

GLENDALE, Circle, Wibaux—(169 jobseekers, 71 new, 95 men, 74 women). Improved weather brought good construction upswing during May. Over 200 employed on road projects in area. Fairly good agenda of building construction in the planning stages, but no definite starting dates available. Nearly 400 domestic workers in the sugar beet fields.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,520 jobseekers, 662 new, 829 men, 691 women). Total non-farm employment in Cascade County 2,000 below May 1963 when Minuteman Missile work was in progress. Manufacturing and construction show big declines. Employment in other major industries remained about the same with the exception of trade which advanced by 200. Increased smelter activity added 80 more workers to May payrolls. Increasing farm labor demand to continue through June.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(203 jobseekers, 48 new, 126 men, 77 women). Bad weather still had some adverse effect on logging and agriculture during May. One sawmill forced to close for 10 day, because of log shortages, idling 35. Construction mostly in shape of building projects including \$105,000 telephone building.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(146 jobseekers, 74 new, 85 men, 61 women). Employment trends showing good im-

provement but no substantial upswing noted in any industry segments. Construction work limited to building projects now nearly completed. Trade and service hiring lacks usual seasonal vigor. Farm labor demand fairly steady.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(349 jobseekers, 175 new, 230 men, 119 women). Labor market trends failed to make any appreciable showing between April and May. Bad weather was chiefly to blame. Clerical and service industry workers were most in demand. Some pickup noted in construction where work completed or in progress totals nearly \$3 million.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,416 jobseekers, 319 new, 1,152 men, 264 women). Increased tempo in construction and logging highlighted May labor market. 500 now employed at Columbia Falls aluminum plant expansion. New housing starts made 75 jobs. Work underway on \$279,000 Columbia Falls water system improvement project. Seasonal employment pick up also occurred in trade and service, forest service, and national park service. Logging recovering slowly after spring break-up.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnet—(168 jobseekers, 78 new, 109 men, 59 women). Industry hiring shows moderate improvement from April but no change from last year. Farm job hires down from last month and last year. \$12 million rest home, now half completed, only major building project.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(191 jobseekers, 85 new, 102 men, 89 women). Labor market developments continue on the bright side. Trade, service, and construction all exhibited good employment patterns. Some worker shortages exist in trade and service classifications. Logging and sawmill employment making slow recovery. Farm labor demand exceeded supply of experienced hands.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(116 jobseekers, 89

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	171.6	176.0	183.3	182.7	182.2	181.6	178.9	174.9	171.2	174.5
1964	165.3	164.5	164.6	169.8	173.4								

*Preliminary Estimate

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary May 1

new, 65 men, 51 women). Industry hires 70% over last year with gains shared by most industry groups. Construction limited to small building projects. Trade and service volume up moderately. Economic trends now point to an above average labor market this summer.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee Superior—(1,318 jobseekers, 622 new, 979 men, 339 women). Employment directions looking up in both farm and industry with job placements in each about equal during May. Jobseeker total dropped by 300 from April but was still 400 above May 1963. Good employment trends show in manufacturing, railroad, and the service industries. Worker shortages of mill workers, and cooks and waitresses exists. Logging employment making slow improvement.

POLSON—(205 jobseekers, 45 new, 143 men, 62 women). Most labor market activity behind schedule because of late spring. Sweet cherry trees survived cold wet weather with no damage; a good harvest expected during late July. Practically no building construction or road projects in evidence.

SHELEY—(133 jobseekers, 99 new, 83 men, 50 women). Labor demand up seasonally in agriculture, construction, and trade and service industries. Work resumed on interstate highway projects and several commercial buildings. Fairly stable trends in oil fields. Farm labor demand exceeds supply.

SIDNEY—(115 jobseekers, 55 new, 73 men, 42 women). Labor demand in outdoor work slowed somewhat during May by bad weather. New projects include drive-in bank and high school at Lambert. Worker shortages include carpenters, cooks, waitresses, and nurses aides. Exceptionally good employment outlook forecast for June.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(129 jobseekers, 70 new, 97 men, 32 women). May job placements occurred mainly in construction, forest service, and logging. Bridge construction delayed by high water. Work on \$900,000 Hot Springs—Anaconda power transmission line slow in starting. Farm labor demand looking up.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(106 jobseekers, 50 new, 72 men, 34 women). Construction work fairly active with some new starts while other projects nearly completed. Good volume of hires in trade and service units. Oil drilling activity remains constant but exploration diminished with two crews leaving the area. Farm labor shortages developed during early May.

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 903 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,235 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	May 1964 (2)	Apr. 1964 (3)	May 1963	Apr. '64 to May '64	May '63 Against May '64
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	173,400	169,800	176,000	3,600	-2,600
Manufacturing	20,900	20,300	22,400	600	-1,500
Durable goods	13,400	12,800	15,000	600	-1,600
Lumber and timber products	8,800	8,300	8,400	500	400
Primary metals	3,000	3,000	3,300	00	300
Other (4)	1,600	1,500	3,300	100	-1,700
Nondurable goods	7,500	7,500	7,400	00	100
Food and kindred products	4,000	3,900	3,900	100	100
Printing and publishing	1,600	1,700	1,600	-100	00
Petroleum refining	1,200	1,200	1,200	00	00
Other (5)	700	700	700	00	00
Mining	7,300	7,300	7,100	00	200
Metal mining	4,800	4,800	4,000	00	800
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	900	900	900	00	00
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,600	1,600	2,200	00	600
Contract Construction	12,200	11,400	13,800	800	-1,600
Contractors, building construction	3,100	2,500	4,400	600	-1,300
Contractors, other than building	4,600	4,400	4,700	200	100
Contractors, special trade	4,500	4,500	4,700	00	200
Transportation and utilities	17,600	17,200	17,600	400	00
Interstate railroads	7,900	7,600	8,000	300	100
Transportation except railroads	3,900	3,900	3,800	00	100
Utilities including communication	5,800	5,700	5,800	100	00
Trade	40,700	39,900	41,000	800	-300
Wholesale trade	8,400	8,400	8,700	00	300
Retail trade	32,300	31,500	32,300	800	00
General merchandise and apparel	6,000	5,900	6,000	100	00
Food stores	4,600	4,600	5,000	00	400
Eating and drinking establishments	9,100	8,500	8,700	600	400
Automotive and filling stations	6,300	6,300	6,500	00	200
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,300	6,200	6,100	100	200
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,800	6,800	6,800	00	00
Services and miscellaneous	23,900	23,300	23,900	600	00
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	3,700	3,200	3,400	500	300
Personal services	2,100	2,000	2,100	100	00
Other (6)	18,100	18,100	18,400	00	300
Government	44,000	43,600	43,400	400	600
Federal	11,700	11,300	12,400	400	700
State and local	32,300	32,300	31,000	00	1,300
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	22,100	21,700	24,100	400	-2,000
Manufacturing	3,100	3,100	4,600	00	-1,500
Contract construction	1,900	1,800	2,500	100	600
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,000	2,200	100	100
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,900	5,800	5,700	100	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,700	3,600	3,700	100	00
Government	4,100	4,100	4,100	00	00
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	23,600	23,200	23,100	400	200
Manufacturing	2,500	2,500	2,700	00	200
Contract construction	1,600	1,500	1,500	100	100
Transportation and utilities	2,500	2,400	2,500	100	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,500	7,400	7,400	100	100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,400	4,300	4,300	100	100
Government	3,700	3,700	3,600	00	100

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN MAY 1964 AND MAY 1963

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placement								UI Claims*	
	May 1964		May 1963		May 1964		May 1963		May 1964				May 1963				Wk. 5-29	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1964	1963
Anaconda	66	8	85	12	268	37	300	31	51	33	84	27	52	22	74	15	174	110
Billings	832	139	832	197	2,607	526	3,114	708	657	806	1,463	260	588	609	1,197	233	811	682
Bozeman	301	34	311	44	221	43	223	43	240	117	357	60	224	128	352	67	76	65
Butte	266	58	360	67	995	199	829	134	79	8	87	27	110	59	169	45	587	342
Cut Bank	27	3	63	15	374	105	310	87	63	66	129	58	62	55	117	42	145	79
Dillon	45	15	51	12	49	17	94	11	37	138	175	62	37	106	143	56	28	49
Glasgow	101	15	65	10	192	26	201	20	97	35	132	18	94	28	122	22	74	105
Glendive	71	1	72	9	169	8	167	19	57	692	749	16	70	651	721	14	21	23
Great Falls	662	83	995	202	1,520	317	1,816	426	321	176	497	147	317	125	442	98	666	557
Hamilton	48	9	69	12	203	29	206	25	55	145	200	20	122	49	171	33	85	55
Havre	74	6	67	7	146	17	208	25	85	87	172	39	81	63	144	51	95	95
Helena	175	22	164	27	349	64	441	71	234	151	385	137	258	109	367	131	271	169
Kalispell	319	56	256	47	1,416	398	868	212	188	24	212	56	226	18	244	49	680	415
Lewistown	78	12	95	21	168	30	206	50	57	77	134	45	58	84	142	54	103	109
Livingston	85	4	70	4	191	28	166	26	136	40	176	47	113	52	165	42	91	88
Miles City	89	8	90	22	116	28	153	22	104	532	636	30	61	626	687	23	85	65
Missoula	622	76	558	56	1,318	280	917	175	316	298	614	96	287	297	584	105	323	287
Polson	45	5	60	5	205	36	215	38	50	14	64	18	56	14	70	13	102	101
Shelby	99	25	119	33	133	24	134	41	54	68	122	36	52	76	128	31	46	59
Sidney	55	12	60	7	115	13	85	8	42	1,181	1,223	9	58	1,493	1,551	17	37	38
Thomp. Falls	70	3	35	9	129	28	127	31	68	10	78	13	62		62	16	85	52
Wolf Point	50	7	42	16	106	21	122	24	36	34	70	10	31	10	41	11	74	53
TOTALS	4,180	601	4,519	834	10,990	2,274	10,902	2,227	3,027	4,732	7,759	1,231	3,019	4,674	7,693	1,168	4,659	3,598

*Includes 464 claims of the Fed. UC Program 224 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	May (1) 1964	Apr. (2) 1964	May 1963	May (1) 1964	Apr. (2) 1964	May 1963	May (1) 1964	Apr. (2) 1964	May 1963
All Manufacturing	\$111.11	\$107.73	\$113.05	41.0	39.9	42.5	2.71	2.70	2.66
Durable Goods	106.97	103.83	113.00	41.3	40.4	43.8	2.59	2.57	2.58
Primary Metals	103.00	96.56	103.48	40.0	35.5	39.8	2.70	2.72	2.60
Nondurable Goods	119.07	114.07	112.50	40.5	38.8	39.2	2.94	2.94	2.87
Food and Kindred Products	110.50	100.22	92.90	42.5	39.3	39.2	2.60	2.55	2.37
All Mining	109.29	109.37	113.90	37.3	37.2	42.5	2.93	2.94	2.68
Metal Mining	107.58	107.58	107.53	36.1	36.1	39.1	2.98	2.98	2.75
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	99.90	107.68	105.06	37.0	39.3	40.1	2.70	2.74	2.62

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING
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